

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 AID-05 SR-02 ORM-01 FDRE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9074

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US, VN, VS

SUBJECT: SOVIET MEDIA DENOUNCE ORPHAN RELIEF EFFORT

REF: A. MOSCOW DAO IR 6 901 0396 75; B. MOSCOW 4666

1. IN ADDITION TO THE CONTINUED DISTORTIONS IN SOVIET MEDIA TREATMENT OF U.S. ACTIVITIES IN INDOCHINA (REF MESSAGES), SOVIET MEDIA ARE DISMISSING THE REFUGEE SITUATION AS PURELY A PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN BY THE U.S. AND WESTERN MEDIA TO GENERATE SYMPATHY AND SUPPORT FOR THE SAIGON REGIME. PRAVDA (APRIL 8,9) CARRIES TASS ITEMS FROM NEW YORK, LONDON AND HANOI, ONE OF WHICH ASSERTS THAT THE U.S. CONCERN ABOUT SOUTH VIETNAMESE ORPHANS AND OTHER REFUGEES IS RELATED TO EFFORT TO PRY HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS OUT OF THE CONGRESS FOR MILITARY SUPPORT FOR THE SAIGON REGIME. ANOTHER OF THE ITEMS CITES, THROUGH A THIRD PERSON MEMO, ALLEGED REMARK BY AMBASSADOR MARTIN THAT THIS OPERATION WOULD HELP TO CHANGE U.S. ATTITUDES IN FAVOR

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OF SAIGON. ANOTHER QUOTES FROM A PILCHER ARTICLE IN THE LONDON

DAILY MIRROR ON THE ALLEGED CYNICISM OF THE ORPHAN PLOY,
FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF TOO MANY CHILDREN BY TOO MANY BOMBS
IN VIETNAM A THIRD REPLAYS THE PRG CHARGE THAT THE U.S. IS
"FORCING" THE PEACEFUL POPULATION FROM THE AREAS ABANDONED
BY THE SAIGON FORCES.

2. MOSCOW THUS CONTINUES TO SIDE WITH ITS HANOI ALLIES IN
CRITICIZING SHARPLY AND INACCURATELY U.S. ACTIONS IN INDOCHINA.
THIS APPROACH CLEARLY SEEKS TO MINIMIZE THE HUMAN COST OF THE
CURRENT OFFENSIVE AND TO REDIRECT THE BLAME FOR IT.

3. AMBASSADOR RAISED SOVIET PRESS DISTORTIONS WITH USA
INSTITUTE DIRECTOR ARBATOV AT SPASO LUNCH APRIL 8. ARBATOV
SEEMED EMBARRASSED AND REPLIED SOMEWHAT LAMELY THAT, IN VIEW
OF REPORTS POURED IN BY VOA AND RADIO LIBERTY, SOVIET PRESS
HAD TO MAKE SOME SORT OF RESPONSE.
STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

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